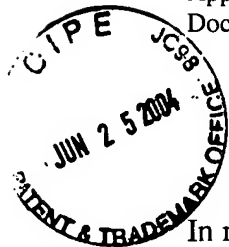


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Application No.: 10/084,143  
Docket No. 87335.3461

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of  
David ENGEL

Group Art Unit: 3679

Serial No. 10/084,143

Examiner: Kenneth I. THOMPSON

Filed: February 28, 2002

For: RETAINING RING APPARATUS AND METHOD

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
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Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action mailed April 13, 2004, having a three-month shortened statutory period of response set to expire July 13, 2004. The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.